and pulses by 10, 8 and 2 million tonnes respectively by the end of Eleventh Five Year Plan. The scheme would cover 133 districts for rice in 12 States, 138 districts for wheat in 9 States and 168 districts for pulses in 14 States.

An outlay of Rs. 4882.48 crore has been provided for the scheme.

(c) and (d) As per the assessment of the Planning Commission on Demand and Supply of foodgrains for the Eleventh Plan period, the anticipated demand (normative approach) for 2008-09 is likely to be 227 million tonnes. Based on annual growth rate method, the supply is expected to be 223 millions tonnes. This is likely to result in a gap of about 4 million tonnes of foodgrains.

Procurement of foodgrains

1412. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the status of procurement of foodgrain in the year 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 till 31st July, 2007;

(b) whether the task of procurement is shouldered by FCI alone or the help of any private agency is being accepted, if so, the details thereof;

(c) what measures Government are going to take in the States where FCI does not participate in procurement, so that, the fanners are not subjected to distress sale; and

(d) the details of the anti-hoarding drive lodged by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The quantity of wheat, rice and coarsegrains procured by the Government agencies for the Central Pool in Rabi Marketing Season (RMS) (April-March) and Kharif Marketing Season (KMS) (October-September) 2005-06 to 2007-08 is given below:-

(in lakh tonnes)

Marketing Season	Wheat (RMS)	Rice (KMS)	Coarsegrains
2005-06	147.85	276.56	11.44
2006-07	92.31	249.21 (upto 31.7.2007)	Negligible
2007-08	111.04	To commence from 1.10.2007	

(b) Procurement of wheat and rice for the Central Pool is undertaken by Government Agencies (FCI and State Agencies). However, FCI has also utilized the services of National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCMSL) and National Bulk Handling Corporation (NBHC) for procurement of paddy in KMS 2006-07, who have procured 770727 tonnes and 12862 tonnes respectively. In RMS 2006-07, NCMSL procured 93 MT of wheat on behalf of FCI.

(c) Before every procurement season instructions are issued by the Department of Food and Public Distribution that FCI and agencies of the State Governments should mutually discuss and then open procurement centers in all districts producing marketable surplus of foodgrains. Instructions are also issued to FCI and the State Governments to give wide publicity through print and visual media as well as through banners, pamphlets etc. regarding the Minimum Support Price Scheme, names of the procurement agencies, particulars of purchase centers and FAQ specifications etc. Control Rooms are also set up in the. Ministry as well as FCI headquarters, FCI Regional offices and by the State Governments to monitor procurement and investigate reports of distress sale.

(d) Adequate powers are vested with State/UT Governments under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Blackmarketing and maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980 for preventing malpractices in respect of essential commodities. Directions have been given to the State/UT Governments from time to time to take necessary action under both the Acts, and to strengthen their enforcement machinery. In the wake of rise in prices of wheat and pulses, Central Order was issued on 29th August, 2006 empowering State Governments to fix stock-holding limits in respect of these two essential commodities. This order has further been extended for six months with effect trom 1st March, 2007.

Import of foodgrains

1413. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of foodgrains which have been imported during last five years, year and foodgrains-wise; and

(b) the names of the countries from where the imports have been made and the rate per ton thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

New legislation to protect consumers

1414. SHRI P.R. RAJAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are introducing any new legislation to protect consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.